

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07

L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 6150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, NO

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON AWACS

REFS: (A) OSLO 5697, (B) STATE 265681, (C) OSLO 3723

1. DURING A DISCUSSION ON VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE
TOPICS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND NOV 29 I WORKED AROUND
TO THE SUBJECT OF NATO AEW (AWACS) SYSTEM, OUTLINING FOR HIM
MAIN POINTS CONTAINED STATE 265681. (I DISCUSSED SAME POINTS
WITH DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN ON NOV 4 AND WITH DEFENSE REVIEW
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COMMISSION SECRETARY HIMLE NOV 29. DCM OUTLINED THEM FOR FRYDENLUND'S

UNDER SECRETARY STOLTENBERG ON NOV 1.)

2. I NOTED THAT PRINCIPAL NATO MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE ENDORSED THE AEW SYSTEM AS A PARAMOUNT MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR THE ALLIANCE, AND STATED THAT USG BELIEVES THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ALLIANCE AEW FORCE ARE URGENT AND WARRANT POSITIVE PROCUREMENT DECISION IN DECEMBER. I SAID WE HOPED SYSTEM WOULD GET POSITIVE RESPONSE IN UPCOMING NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING.

3. FRYDENLUND SAID AWACS SYSTEM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN CABINET AND INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO MORE DISCUSSION THERE BEFORE THE NATO MINISTERIAL. HE SAID THAT IN CABINET MEETING MOD HANSEN HAD PRESENTED ISSUE IN GENERALLY POSITIVE WAY BUT WITH SOME RESERVATIONS AND INDICATED THAT THEIR RESPONSE AT NATO MINISTERIAL WOULD BE OF SIMILAR NATURE. WHEN QUERIED ON RESERVATIONS FRYDENLUND ALLUDED TO GENERAL BUDGETARY AND PRIORITY PROBLEMS RELATING TO NEED TO UPGRADING THEIR GROUND BASED EARLY WARNING RADAR SYSTEM (NADGE). HE SUGGESTED NORWEGIANS WERE CONSIDERING AWACS AS A COMPLEMENTARY SYSTEM TO NADGE THOUGH HE WAS A LITTLE VAGUE HERE POSSIBLY DUE TO A LACK OF DETAILED FAMILIARITY WITH EITHER SYSTEM.

4. FRYDENLUND WAS INTERESTED IN MY POINT THAT NO MATTER HOW GOOD A GROUND BASED SYSTEM WAS, IT WAS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT TO OBTAIN LOW ALTITUDE DATA COMPARABLE TO THAT WHICH AN AIRBORNE SYSTEM COULD PROVIDE. A COUNTRY SUCH AS NORWAY WHICH DEPENDED SO MUCH ON ITS AIR DEFENSE, I EMPHASIZED, COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT SUCH LOW ALTITUDE DATA.

5. COMMENT: BASED ON OUR DISCUSSION WITH MOD HANSEN AND FRYDENLUND AND THEIR STAFFS, I AM CONFIDENT NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND THAT WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE ON THE AWACS PROPOSAL. WHILE THEY ARE STILL STUDYING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR PARTICULAR INTERESTS, LIMITATIONS AND CONCERNS AND APPEAR TO HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT AWACS AT THIS TIME, I HAVE HAD SEVERAL INDICATIONS THAT THEY WILL, AT LEAST, NOT BE NEGATIVE TOWARD THE PROGRAM AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO PUSH THIS ISSUE MUCH FURTHER WITH TOP MOD AND MFA OFFICIALS FROM HERE UNTIL WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POSITION THEY PLAN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKE AT THE MINISTERIAL.
ANDERS

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